



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIE M. CARPINO
THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR

MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN PUBLIC HEARING March 1, 2022

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 208: AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONSENT.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Anwar and Representative Linehan; Ranking Members Senator Kelly and Representative Dauphinais; and distinguished members of the Committee on Children. Thank you for raising SB-208: *An Act Concerning Social Media and Parental Consent*.

Bullying. Body Shaming. Destructive Pranks. Dangerous Challenges.

Our children deserve better, and this bill can help protect them during their formative years.

As a parent I can attest to the pressures young teens must navigate. The added dynamic of the internet only makes things more stressful. I've spoken to parents, and kids, about the social implications of being online as well as the dangers associated with some of the content. Children in this age group may not understand the implications of creating an online presence that could follow them forever. Privacy is likely not something that comes to mind as they post their day to day and share personal information.

If we require internet providers to obtain parental consent before allowing a child under 16 years old to open a social media account, families will have an added level of protection for our children. If a parent opts to grant a child permission, then they are aware that their child has an online presence and can guide or monitor appropriately. I encourage you to review the articles from well-respected professional organizations connecting mental health concerns and social media if you need further convincing.